

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TRSE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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SUBJECT: FOLLOW UP TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH CHAIRMAN CONVENED MEETING OECD/DAC GROUP, JULY 9
TO REPORT ON FOLLOW UP ACTIONS SINCE CLOSE OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL FIRST

SESSION AND CONSIDER WHAT MIGHT BE DONE IN UPCOMING WEEKS TO REGAIN
LOST GROUND. MEETING CHARACTERIZED BY SPIRIT OF GLOOM OVER FIRST
COUNCIL SESSION, CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM OF SECRETARIAT AND PRESIDENT
MAREI, SUPPORT FOR CHAIRMAN'S INITIATIVE TO ENCOURAGE MAREI TO CONSULT

GOVERNMENTS IN EFFORT TO GET THEM BACK ON THE TRACK.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT REFLECTED CONCERN RE EFFECT OF FIRST MEETING
AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS HE HAD HAD WITH MAREI (WHO HAD MET WITH
G-77) DESIGNED PARTLY TO ASSURE MAREI THAT HE WAS THE PRESIDENT OF
"ALL IF US". AMONG HIS MAIN POINTS WERE (A) "WHAT HAPPENED" (THE
DIFFICULT LAST DAY OF THE SESSION RUNNING UNTIL 2 AM, CHARACTERIZED
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BY G-77 ATTACKS ON SECRETARIAT, ATTEMPT BY SOME MEMBERS TO HAVE THE

GROUP TAKEN OVER, FRICTION WITHIN THE GROUP, ETC.) WAS AFTER DEPARTURE OF THE MINISTERS, PRIME SPOKESMEN BEING A NUMBER OF ROME REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO, (B) INABILITY OF THE PRESIDENT TO ORGANIZE IN ADVANCE AND RETAIN CONTROL DURING THE MEETING (INCLUDING EXCESSIVE PARTICIPATION OF TROUBLE-MAKING OBSERVERS), (C) LONG SMOLDERING ANTI-HANNAH FEELING AMONG THE 77, REFLECTING THE MANNER OF APPOINTMENT AND DISSATISFACTION BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT APPOINTMENT OF AMERICANS

TO KEY JOBS ARISING FROM WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, (D) WEO CONTACTS WITH 77 WERE NOT GOOD, PARTLY BECAUSE THERE WAS SO LITTLE AGREEMENT AMONG THE 77 (SOME WANTED TO OBJECT TO EVERYTHING TO "GET AT" HANNAH; OTHER MORE REASONABLE), (E) PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE SPEECH-MAKING FORUM WERE NOT CONDUCIVE TO PROGRESS - SHOULD HAVE A "ROUND TABLE" APPROACH WHERE MINISTERS CAN SEE AND TALK TO EACH OTHER. HE REPORTED MAREI AS BITTER AT THE G-77 WHO HADEN'T KEPT HIM INFORMED, WORRIED OVER THE SECRETARIAT SITUATION (SAID HE, HANNAH AND WALDHEIM HAD AGREED THAT THEY SHOULD GET BETTER GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION), DISAPPOINTED THAT THE COUNCIL WAS NOT SET UP AS AN AUTHORITY WITH THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND IFAD REPORTING TO IT, AND THINKING OF A MARCH-APRIL MEETING TO TRY TO "SAVE" THE ORGANIZATION AND GET IT BACK ON THE TRACKS.

3. COUNTRY COMMENTS ALONG SAME GENERAL LINES WITH VARIATIONS IN DEGREE. SOME, NOTABLY AUSTRALIA, THOUGHT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THEY WOULD

BE ABLE TO GET MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS. MOST ASSUMED HANNAH WOULD LEAVE, WITHOUT PUTTING INTO WELL DEFINED TIME FRAME, BUT SOME ASSERTED THIS WAS NOT JUST A HANNAH OR U.S. PROBLEM AND THAT WESTERN GROUP MUST RETAIN SECRETARIAT SINCE THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS ARE FROM OTHER GROUPS. NETHERLANDS QUESTIONED WHETHER THERE REALLY WAS ROOM FOR THE COUNCIL. SEVERAL MADE POINT OF THE "DANGER" INHERENT IN G-77 EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE CONTINUING WORKING GROUP ON RULES AND PROCEDURES WHAT THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO GET IN PLENARY.

4. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SUGGESTED THERE WAS TOO MUCH FIGHTING OF SYMBOLS, THAT MUCH OF THE PROBLEM MIGHT POSSIBLE BE DUE TO FACT THIS WAS A FIRST MEETING WITH ADEQUATE PREPARATION IMPOSSIBLE, AND THAT PLETHORA OF GROUPS HANDLING SAME ISSUES (FRIST BROUGHT UP BY NETHERLANDS) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEANT THAT IT WAS ALL THE MORE NECESSARY FOR THE COUNCIL TO FOCUS ON 2 OR 3 ISSUES ON WHICH ITS POLITICAL/PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT MIGHT BE REAL. SUGGESTED THAT WASHINGTON, AS OTHER CAPITALS, WOULD BE REASSESSING WHOLE PROBLEM BUT PERSONALLY WAS CONFIDENT CONCLUSIONS WOULD BE FOR CONTINUED FULL SUPPORT AND REPRESENTATION AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN EFFORT TO HELP THE COUNCIL ACHIEVE THE HOPES FOR IT WHICH THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE HAS EXPRESSED. MAREI'S CONCERN FULLY JUSTIFIED AND WAS HEALTHY SIGN SINCE HE PROBABLY WAS IN BEST POSITION

BE SECURE REASONABLE BEHAVIOR FROM NON WESTERN GROUPS.

5. THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTION THAT HE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE MARIE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE (VISIT COUNTRIES, ETC.) WITHOUT TAKING OVER FUNCTION OF SECRETARIAT; TO WORK TOWARD A MORE POINTED AGENDA FOR ANY SUCCEEDING MEETING; AND TO DELAY CALLING ANY ADDITIONAL MEETING UNTIL WE WERE MUCH BETTER ORGANIZED FOR IT. VOLPE

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